Prospects of It sector

2236. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether IT services sector holds bright prospects for export of services under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) regime under the World Trade Organisation (WTO); and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government for promotion of export of such services and protecting interests of the Indian professional and service providers under the WTO regime?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. Information Technology is one of the service sectors where India has immense potential for exports, including under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) regime.

(b) Under the ongoing GATS negotiations in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), initial requests have been made by India on its trading partners seeking full sectoral commitments in the Computer and Related Services Sector, with a view to achieve meaningful access in their markets for our Information Technology industry and professionals. Through these initial requests, removal of limitations and barriers experienced by the service providers have also been sought. In addition, India had also submitted a negotiating proposal on Computer and Related Services for discussion in the Council for Trade in Services (CTS) of the WTO with the objective of bringing about deeper liberalisation and removal of barriers being faced by our IT professionals and service providers. Our keen interest in the Information Technology sector in providing more access for our service providers and IT professionals in markets abroad and the advantages that would accrue to other countries through liberalisation of this sector are duly emphasised during the ongoing discussions in the context of the mandated negotiations under GATS, through bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral initiatives.